

15-HEADSTART-1

HEAD START

Head Start began operating in 1965 under the general authority of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Head Start provides a wide range of services to primarily low-income children, ages 0 to 5, and their families. Its goals are to improve the social competence, learning skills, and health and nutrition status of low-income children so that they can begin school on an equal basis with their peers from higher-income households. The services provided include cognitive and language development; medical, dental, and mental health services (including screening and immunizations); and nutritional and social services. Parental involvement is extensive, through both volunteer participation and employment of parents as Head Start staff. Formal training and certification as child care workers is provided to some parents through the Child Development Associate Program.

Head Start's eligibility guidelines require that at least 90 percent of the children served come from families with incomes at or below the poverty line. At least 10 percent of the enrollment slots in each local program must be available for children with disabilities. In fiscal year 2002, 912,345 children were served in Head Start Programs, at a total Federal cost of \$6.5 billion. In May 2002, 21 percent of Head Start families received TANF benefits. Table 15-HEADSTART-1 provides historical data on participation in and funding of the Head Start Program, while Table 15-HEADSTART-2 provides characteristics of children enrolled in the program.

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TABLE 15-HEADSTART-1--HEAD START ENROLLMENT AND
FEDERAL FUNDING, FISCAL YEARS 1965-2002

Fiscal year	Enrollment	Appropriations (in millions of dollars)
1965 (summer only)	561,000	96.4
1966	733,000	198.9
1967	681,400	349.2
1968	693,900	316.2
1969	663,600	333.9
1970	477,400	325.7
1971	397,500	360.0
1972	379,000	376.3
1973	379,000	400.7
1974	352,800	403.9
1975	349,000	403.9
1976	349,000	441.0
1977	333,000	475.0
1978	391,400	625.0
1979	387,500	680.0
1980	376,300	735.0
1981	387,300	818.7
1982	395,800	911.7
1983	414,950	912.0
1984	442,140	995.8
1985	452,080	1,075.0
1986	451,732	1,040.0
1987	446,523	1,130.5
1988	448,464	1,206.3
1989	450,970	1,235.0
1990	548,470	1,552.0 ¹
1991	583,471	1,951.8
1992	621,078	2,201.8
1993	713,903	2,776.3
1994	740,493	3,325.7
1995	750,696	3,534.1
1996	752,077	3,569.3
1997	793,809	3,980.5
1998	822,316	4,347.4
1999	835,365	4,658.2
2000	857,664	5,266.2
2001	905,235	6,199.1
2002	912,345	6,536.6

¹ After sequestration.

Source: Head Start Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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TABLE 15-HEADSTART-2--CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN HEAD START,
SELECTED FISCAL YEARS 1980-2002

Fiscal Year	Disabled	Age of Children Enrolled				Enrollment by Race				
		5 and older	4	3	Under 3	Native American	Hispanic	Black	White	Asian
1980	12	21	55	24	0	4	19	42	34	1
1982	12	17	55	26	2	4	20	42	33	1
1984	12	16	56	26	2	4	20	42	33	1
1986	12	15	58	25	2	4	21	40	32	3
1988	13	11	63	23	3	4	22	39	32	3
1990	14	8	64	25	3	4	22	38	33	3
1991	13	7	63	27	3	4	22	38	33	3
1992	13	7	63	27	3	4	23	37	33	3
1993	13	6	64	27	3	4	24	36	33	3
1994	13	7	62	28	3	4	24	36	33	3
1995	13	7	62	27	4	4	25	35	33	3
1996	13	6	62	29	4	4	25	36	32	3
1997	13	5	60	30	4	4	26	36	31	3
1998	13	6	59	31	4	3	26	36	32	3
1999	13	5	58	33	4	3	27	35	31	3
2000	13	5	56	33	6	3	29	35	30	3
2001	13	4	54	35	7	4	30	34	30	2
2002	13	5	52	36	7	3	30	33	28	3

Source: Head Start Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.